

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 06047 311531Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----000119 010135Z /65

R 311450Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9488
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI POUCH
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 6047

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, SO, ET, SA
SUBJ: SAG VIEWS ON THE HORN

REF: (A) JIDDA 4987, (B) MOGADISCIO 1488, (C) JIDDA 5987

1. REF A GAVE SOME SAUDI IMPRESSIONS OF SIAD AND HIS VISIT
TO KINGDOM IN JULY.

2. WE SERIOUSLY WONDER WHETHER THE SAUDIS THEMSELVES HAVE
A CLEARLY THOUT-OUT IDEA OF WHAT A POST-MENGISTU HORN
WOULD LOOK LIKE. EVEN IF THEY DO, AND SHARE IT WITH SOMALIS
AND EGYPTIANS (AND PRESUMABLY SUDANSES) AS PER REF B, WE HAVE
EXPERIENCED THAT SAUDIS ARE LESS THAN FORTHCOMING ON RED SEA
MATTERS UNLESS SAG VOLUNTEERS OWN VIEWS.

3. IN CONTEXT OF SAG INVOLVEMENT IN MEPC, NUMEROUS NEW
MULTILATERAL RESPONSIBILITIES AND INTERESTS, AND TIGHTLY-
CONFINED DECISION-MAKING CIRCLE, WE BELIEVE SAG HAS BEN TOO BUSY TO
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FOCUS ON MORE THAN SHORT RANGE GOALS OF AUTONOMOUS ERITREA
AND LIBERATION OF OGADEN MUSLIMS FROM THEIR CHRISTIAN
RULERS, BASICALLY LEAVING ONLY TRUNCATED "AMHARIC" ETHIOPIA.
BY FREEING MUSLIMS AND, AT THE SAME TIME, GIVING THE PRO-
SOVIET MARXIST MENGISTU HIS COMEUPPANCE, SAG WOULD NEATLY
DOVETAIL ITS TWO MAJOR FOREIGN POLICY GOALS OF CONTAINING
COMMUNISM AND EXPANDING THE HOUSE OF ISLAM. THE ADDITIONAL

GEOPOLITICAL GOAL OF TURNING VITAL RED SEA ARTERIAL INTO AN ARAB LAKE ALSO AN IMPORTANT FACTOR IN SAUDI THINKING. SUPPORT OF THIS ETHIOPIAN FACTION OR THAT IN A SUCCESSOR ROLE TO MENGISTU DOES NOT PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN SAUDI THINKING ON THE HORN, AS WE SEE IT, BECAUSE THEY BELIEVE THAT EVEN A MENGISTU-RULED RUMP "AMHARIC" ETHIOPIA WOULD PRESUMABLY BE WEAKENED BEYOND IRREDENTIST AMBITIONS AND EASILY CONTROLLED BY PRO-SAUDI SURROUNDING ARAB COUNTRIES.

4. FOLLOWING ANGOLA EXPERIENCE, SAUDIS VIEW U.S. DECISION TO DELAY SOMALI SECURITY ASSISTANCE ANOTHER U.S. FAILURE TO RESPOND TO SAG OVERTURES ON COMBINED FINANCIAL/ARMS ARRANGEMENT TO NEUTRALIZE COMMUNISM IN AFRICA.

5. WE WILL TRY TO ELICIT FURTHER SAUDI VIEWS ON THE FUTURE OF THE HORN WHEN THE OPPORTUNITY PRESENTS ITSELF.
WEST

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